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LR 45

SENATOR BROWN: You are arguing to the merits of merger and consolidation and whether...

SENATOR LYNCH: Well, that's what this is, that we'll...

SENATOR BROWN: Yes, but this is...

SENATOR LYNCH: But, no, wait a minute, you're on my time, so I'm not going to...we're not going to get off onto a side issue. This is the point, you see, we want to offer flexibility to people at the local level to merge governments or to vote on merging governments. And we can't even explain on this floor, both of us who are in government, what service are we going to merge in Douglas County and in the city of Omaha, and how much are we going to save. I don't care if the county clerk in Lancaster County thinks it's a great idea. That's not the question I asked. I asked, how much are we going to save, and who are we going to serve, and what's going to be consolidated? A good example, you see, ladies and gentlemen, of how we are making...trying to make it look to the people back home that we want to do what we can to help you save money, but we don't even have any idea how we're going to do it or who is going to be consolidated. I can tell you another reason why some people don't want to go on record as to what will be consolidated, because they don't want to turn people off at the courthouse, or at the city hall, or at the school district level. You know when we look at it from the point of view as services, generally, when you save money you overcome duplication in the form of services and the administration of those services. I don't know how many school districts we got in Douglas County, probably 9, or 10, maybe 11, or 12. At one time we had 15. We can't even consolidate school districts. We can't even consolidate school districts in Douglas County because...and they all do the same thing, all they do is educate kids, that's all, no more, no less, educate kids. But we're talking about something much more complicated. What happens to Waterloo? What happens to Gretna, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera? Who votes? Who will represent what district? We've got seven county commissioners. By the way, commissioners, we were elected by districts. Most of the supervisor systems in the county, they're also elected by districts. So I would think if in fact it doesn't clearly spell out that the four people